

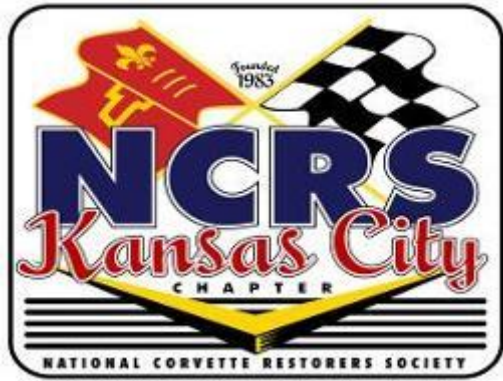
Classic Corvette Newsletter

April, 2025

*"A Publication of the Kansas
City Chapter of the NCRS"*



"The hood scoop is functional. It sucks the doors off Porsches."



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Message from the President

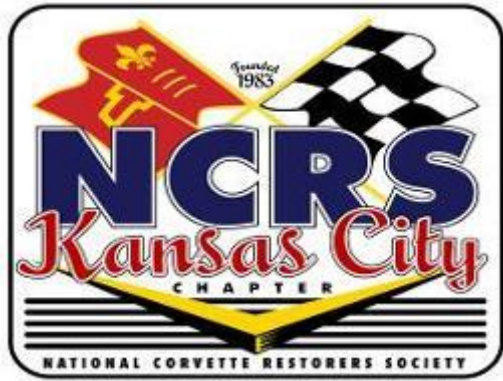
It is May and the NCRS and many local and regional events are under way! By the time you receive this newsletter, there have been two regionals – the Florida Regional in January and the Arizona Regional the first weekend in May! In addition to those great events, our Chapter hosted our Spring Judging event April 11 and 12 at the Cable Dahmer Auto Facility in Martin City. I am sure there will be more about that event in this newsletter, but I want to personally thank EVERYONE involved in making this a very successful event – from those involved in the administration, to the judges and observer judges, to the hard-working people who helped with the tables, chairs, and food provisions and those who brought their cars for Flight Judging as well as the Display Car (this event may have been the last requirement for member John Hecker's journey for 5th Star for his Crossed Flags Award!!). Special thanks go to all of those who traveled to the event to participate.

And finally, a very big THANK YOU to our great friends at the Cable Dahmer facility – they went above and beyond in welcoming us to their great facility – this was the first time at this location, but I certainly hope it was not the last. Wow, 2025 is off to a very good start! I hope we are through the worst of the cold and snow and well on our way to warm, sunny days of the Corvette season.

Now, to some other news:

Those of you who have attended the last two chapter meetings know that John Hecker has filled in for me due to work conflicts. While I have had conflicts in the meetings, I have not wavered in my support for the Chapter and its members. I am working to get the schedule conflicts resolved and it looks like I may also miss the May meeting – that has not been confirmed.

Several members from both our Chapter and the St. Louis Chapter are actively working behind the scenes in preparation for the upcoming Show-Me Regional to be held in Springfield, MO July 17th – 19th. As always, we are looking for cars to judge and how convenient this is for a regional event. As Tony Stein has mentioned, Flight Judging of a car is a moment in time and if it has been some time since your car earned a Flight award, consider taking it to our Regional Meet to update your award. And please seriously consider joining the group as volunteers to help make the event a huge success.



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Message from the President continued

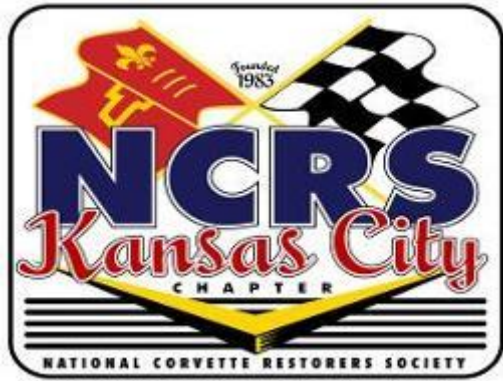
.And due to large gap in the timing for Regionals for 2026, both Boards for our Chapter and the St. Louis Chapter met separately and both approved the hosting of another regional at the same location at the Expo Center in Springfield, MO for April 16th -18th, 2026. The National Board has also approved the co-hosting of this event. Of course, more information will follow. This will give us an opportunity to shine in July and possible identify any “road bumps” that we need to clear-up before 2026.

Shifting from the judging activities mentioned above, we have social events planned for this summer and I hope that you can participate. Our Chapter Website <https://ncrskc.com> has an “Upcoming” page that is a calendar of events. In addition to our monthly meetings, we have the following items planned:

We have a tour planned for a trip to the Boonville MO area for a tour of Corvette collector Randy Potter facility; however, I have heard that Randy has a conflict and this date may change. I have sent Randy an email to get more information.

Our annual “Picnic in the Park” is scheduled for June 21st. This has been a big success over the past several years and is becoming quite the “Cornhole Challenge” for the Chapter. More information to follow.

The details for the 5th Annual All GM and Corvette Show on September 28th at the Cable Dahmer Arena are taking shape. If you would like to participate in the planning of this event, there is always room for more help. Please contact me if you are ready and willing to take on a challenging but very rewarding role as we prepare for our fund-raising event with Children’s Mercy Hospitals and Clinic’s benefitting from our efforts. I hope to have “Save the Date” cards available in the very near future for your use when you attend the various “Cars and Coffee’s” and “Car Shows” in the area. Additionally, I would like to contact the various car clubs (Camaro club, Buick club, etc) to share information about this event so if you belong to such a club or know the contact people, please let me know – thank you.



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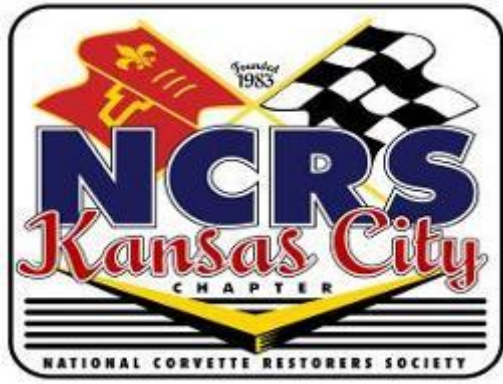
Message from the President continued

Our May Chapter meeting will be held May 13th at the Pizza Shoppe, 1105 W. Main St. Blue Springs, MO. Please join us at 6:00 pm if you would like to eat and chat with friends. The meeting will start at 7:00.

In closing, please don't hesitate to reach out to me, jimcurtis52@gmail.com or (816) 898-3277 with concerns, suggestions or just to chat! Thank you, ALL, for your efforts!

"Teamwork divides the task and multiplies the success." - Anonymous

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Message from the Vice President

NCRS Vice Chairman notes by John Hecker

On April 3 – 5 a few of the Kansas City Chapter members attended the Regional in South Carolina at Clemson University. There were about 43 cars there. The location was an indoor arena which was great for the event. The weather was good. The local clubs did a great job.

Our Club held a spring judging event on April 11-12. This was a well-attended event. There were 9 judged cars and several club cars there on Saturday. The Cable Dahmer site was a great place for cars. Thanks to all the members that helped make this a great event. It was a great opportunity for our members to learn more about judging and have their car judged.

Also, in April a few of the Kansas City Chapter members attended the Heartland Chapter event on April 25-26 in Urbandale, Iowa. There were 8 judged cars and several Sportsman cars out side in front of the dealership.

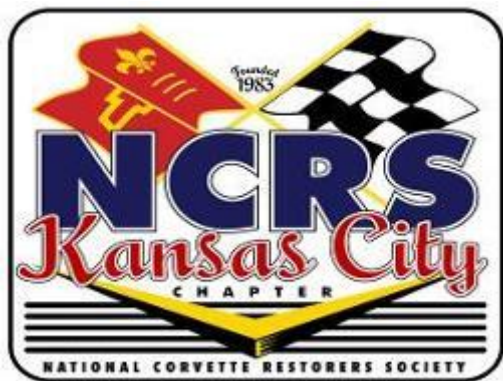
On May 3 the local CCKC club is hosting an Outdoor car show at Cosentino's Market at 8051 W 160 St Overland Park, Kansas. It's rain or shine event starting at 8am to 2pm. For more info go to the CCKC web site.

The next Regional is in Glendale, Arizona on May 1 -3.

Keep July 16-19 open to attend our Show Me Regional in Springfield, Missouri.

As a reminder, check the NCRS web site for more info on upcoming events.

John



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Membership Manager

KC Chapter NCRS Members,

We have done a GREAT job of getting our Chapter dues paid for 2025 and even some for 2026. To those of you who are up to date or who have responded to my email or phone call---I want to say THANKS for helping make my job easier of managing our Membership! To the few that I've not been able to reach---please contact me so we can get everything current. It doesn't take much additional time more than routine communications except for having to keep track of who I've contacted, etc. so if you have an email or voicemail---again I would sure appreciate getting back to me!

Our Chapter is currently 113 Strong with 105 Paid Members as of today. With our new National Initiative to update our Concours Judging Program (New Name and Details to be announced) to a Judging Program that will encompass ALL Corvette Owner's from 1953 to 2025 and beyond---you all probably know of someone who would be interested in joining NCRS both Nationally and Locally. Please talk to all of your Friends, Family and Acquaintances who own or have owned a Corvette about all that NCRS has to offer. Or if you'd rather have me call---email or call with contact information and I will be glad to make a call on NCRS's behalf!

Our "Show-Me" Regional along with our sister St Louis Chapter is fastly approaching! We need everyone's help in putting together an experience for all Attendees! Our job duties sign up sheet still has areas that we need help in. We will NOT turn down anyone who would like to assist in assisting---whether it be a small or larger job. Please contact me if you or a family member would like to volunteer for an assignment.

Hope to see all of you at our next Monthly Chapter Meeting on May 13th at Pizza Shoppe in Blue Springs! Call, email or text if I can assist in any way.

Thanks, Jon
Jon Shafer NCRS #57816
jon@corvspeckc.com

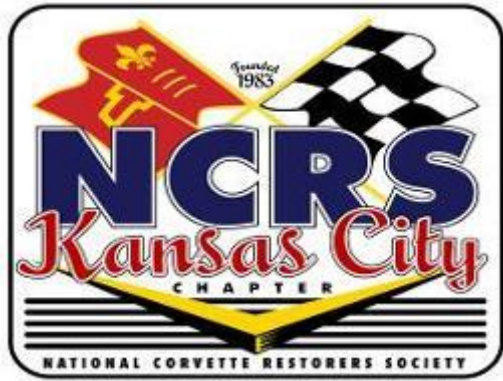
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KC Chapter Membership Manager

Jon F. Shafer

Shafer Enterprises, LLC

d/b/a Corvette Specialties of Kansas City

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Message from the Editor

Busy, Busy, Busy. Judging meets everywhere.

For those who don't know, I am trying my hand at judging. Just getting started but learning a lot. Last weekend, John and I went to Iowa to Heartland's Chapter Meet. It was a lot of fun. The meet was at Bob Brown Chevrolet. I got to do operations on a Concours car (something new for me) and worked with John and Diana from Illinois. Learned a lot and was impressed by the way Diana worked with the owner of the car to make suggestions to help him in the future. This was his first show.

The next day I judged exterior with John Schafer on a 1967 Flight car. I have judged exterior on C5's but never a C2. What a learning experience. **Really appreciated** working with Jon. He took the time to point out things to me and it really helped. I learned so much.

For those of you who have thought about judging but are nervous about it, I will just say one thing, we all start somewhere. I have been very fortunate to work with great judges who are willing to share their knowledge and experience. The great thing about NCRS is the great people and their willingness to share their time and knowledge.

Cindy



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March Meeting Minutes by Marty Tydings

Stone Canyon Pizza, Parkville, MO March 11, 2025

Board members present: John Hecker, Hal James, Tony Stein and Marty L Tydings

Volunteers present: Dave Dildine and Jerry Adams

There were 25 members present.

Gary Lush, a former early member, #86, has happily rejoined us. Just in time for our chapters' judging event next month!

A motion was made, seconded and passed to approve last months' minutes.

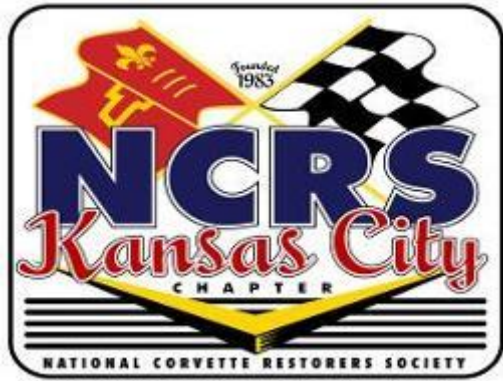
John Hecker, Vice President, gave updates on coming events: the Carolinas Regional event is April 3rd – 5th, in Pendleton, SC at Clemson University. Members can go to <https://www.ncrs.org/services/coming-events.php> to check out other upcoming events.

Our chapter judging event is April 11th and 12th starting at 10 am for judging. If you are volunteering to help please be there not later than 8:00 am. There will be donuts if you need some enticing.

Bob Henn has taken over as team leader for concourse cars from Daniel Riechtfertig.

We will need 12 ops judges just for C2's since we now have 6 C2s coming. Plus other cars.

Our judging school will be from 2:30 – 3:00 on Friday. Ops judging will start at 3:00, followed by dinner set up at Jess and Jim's by Patti Norris. Jess and Jim's is at 517 E. 135th street in Martin City, officially it is KC, MO



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March Meeting Minutes (continued) by Marty Tydings

Hal James, treasurer, reviewed February's financial report. Motion was made and seconded and passed to approve last months' financial report.

Jerry Adams, Chapter Flight Award Manager, said we're off to a good start regarding the requirements for our chapter by already having three tech articles ready to turn into our national organization. It's a great start to the year.

John Hecker gave our newsletter editor Cindy Heckers' update, the newsletters are done bi-monthly and if you have any articles or pictures that she can include in the newsletter please send them to her at jhecker@kc.rr.com

Dave Dildine, media, stated he has been putting our newsletters on our website: kcncrs.com

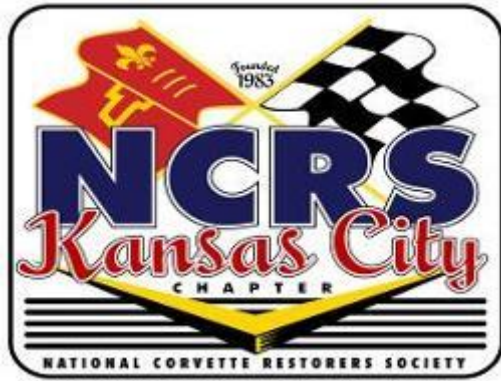
John Hecker mentioned there would be a meeting with Cable Dahmer on March 15th to discuss the All GM Show and get the details nailed down, including lessons learned.

Tony is still taking orders for NCRSKC polo shirts. They will be embroidered with your name if requested.

Tony's contact is anthonystein@att.net

The gentleman that shot the incredible videos of Mike DeLeersnyder's Corvette will be at our Chapters judging event. Perhaps someone else would like to have the opportunity to have their car featured in a neat video. Thank you to Mike for inviting him.

Our next meeting will be April 8th at The Other Place in Shawnee.



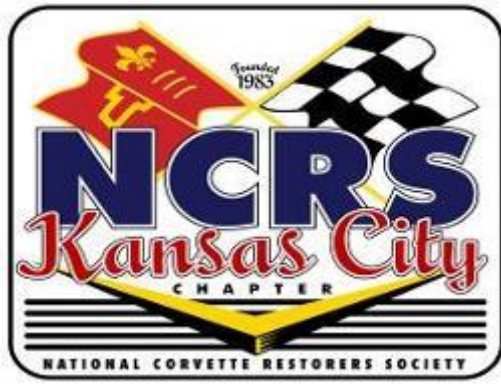
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Monthly Meeting Places and Dates

| Start Date | Description | Location | Time | Classification |
|-----------------------------|------------------------------|--|------|----------------|
| Tuesday, May 13, 2025 | KC Chapter Meeting | Pizza Shoppe, 1105 W. Main St. Blue Springs, MO | | KC Chapter |
| Tuesday, June 10, 2025 | KC Chapter Meeting | Tim's Pizza 17201 East US Hwy 40 Indep MO | | KC Chapter |
| Tuesday, July 8, 2025 | KC Chapter Meeting | Old Shawnee Pizza, 6000 Roger Rd., Shawnee, KS | | KC Chapter |
| Tuesday, August 12, 2025 | KC Chapter Meeting | Smokehouse Barbecue, 1900 E. 39th St, Independence, MO | | KC Chapter |
| Tuesday, October 14, 2025 | KC Chapter Meeting | Stone Canyon Pizza, Parkville MO | | KC Chapter |
| Tuesday, November 11, 2025 | KC Chapter Meeting | The Other Place, 22730 Midland Dr. Shawnee, KS | | KC Chapter |
| Saturday, November 22, 2025 | KC Chapter Nomination Dinner | Armacost Museum, Grandview MO | | KC Chapter |
| Tuesday, December 9, 2025 | KC Chapter Meeting | Pizza Shoppe, 1105 W. Main St. Blue Springs, MO | | KC Chapter |



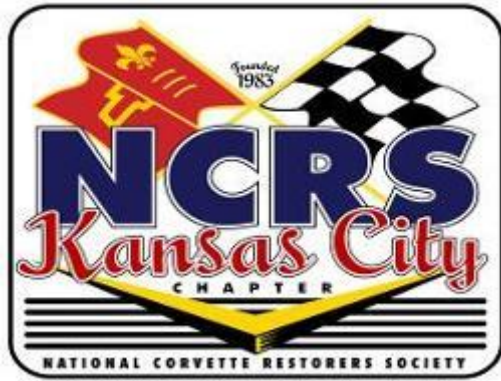
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Upcoming Events Of Interest

| Start Date | End Date | Description | Location | Classification |
|------------------------------|------------------------------|---|-------------------------------|----------------|
| Saturday, May 17, 2025 | Saturday, May 17, 2025 | Randy Potter Collection Tour | Boonville MO | Placeholder |
| Friday, June 6, 2025 | Saturday, June 7, 2025 | Bloomington Gold | Bloomington, IL | Other Chapter |
| Saturday, June 21, 2025 | Saturday, June 21, 2025 | KC Chapter Picnic | Shawnee Mission Park, KS | KC Chapter |
| Saturday, August 23, 2025 | Saturday, August 23, 2025 | Northwest Ark. 28th Annual Summer's End | Rogers, AR | Other Chapter |
| Friday, September 5, 2025 | Saturday, September 6, 2025 | Bloomington Gold - Judging Event Only | Dallas, TX | Other Chapter |
| Thursday, September 25, 2025 | Saturday, September 27, 2025 | Eureka Springs Car Show | Eureka Springs, AR | Other Chapter |
| Friday, November 21, 2025 | Saturday, November 22, 2025 | MCACN | Rosemont, IL | Other Chapter |
| Saturday, November 22, 2025 | Saturday, November 22, 2025 | KC Chapter Nomination Dinner | Armacost Museum, Grandview MO | KC Chapter |



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Upcoming NCRS Events

| Start Date | End Date | Description | Location | Class |
|----------------------------|------------------------------|---|----------------|--------------------|
| Thursday, May 1, 2025 | Saturday, May 3, 2025 | Arizona Regional | Glendale AZ | Regional |
| Friday, May 9, 2025 | Saturday, May 10, 2025 | North Central Spring Chapter Meet | Menomnie WI | Other Chapter |
| Thursday, July 17, 2025 | Saturday, July 19, 2025 | Show-Me Regional | Springfield MO | Regional |
| Friday, August 1, 2025 | Saturday, August 2, 2025 | North Central Fall Meet | Long Lake, MN | Other Chapter |
| Sunday, September 7, 2025 | Thursday, September 11, 2025 | NCRS National | Las Vegas | National |
| Friday, September 26, 2025 | Saturday, September 27, 2025 | Heartland Chapter Fall Meet | Des Moines IA | Placeholder |
| Friday, October 3, 2025 | Saturday, October 4, 2025 | Heartland Chapter Fall Meet Placeholder | Des Moines IA | Placeholder |
| Thursday, October 23, 2025 | Saturday, October 25, 2025 | Texas Regional | Frisco, TX | Regional |

NCRS Award Program
Sportsman Award

NCRS Sportsman Award

I know many of you have seen a Corvette with a “Sportsman” placard on the dash or overheard “Nah, I am not having my car judged – I am just doing Sportsman. Have you ever wondered what does this award entail? Well, here is some information from the NCRS Corvette Judging Reference Manual, 9th Edition.

PURPOSE AND DESCRIPTION

This award is presented by Chapter officers at local chapter functions, with two purposes:

- 1) Encourage members participating in NCRS events.
- 2) Demonstrate the NCRS commitment to recognize a member who actively attends and drives a Corvette to Chapter, Regional and National events.

AWARD PREREQUISITES

Within the award year or three preceding calendar years, a member must:

- 1) Be a member of any NCRS chapter throughout the prerequisite period for points accumulation.
- 2) Must own and drive a 1953-through-current-year production Corvette and park in the designated Sportsman parking area or own and drive a stock-appearing 1953-2004 Corvette and be willing to leave the car on the judging field with judged cars during the event judging as space permits. “Stock appearing” is defined as no body, bumper or driving light modifications.
- 3) In accordance with Item 1 sub-Paragraph of Section 12 to recognize the member who actively attends and drives a Corvette to Chapter, Regional and National meets, a member living outside of the North American Continent may participate with a Corvette owned by another member. This car must meet all requirements for participation in the NCRS event.
- 4) Register for and pay all of the necessary Sportsman fees and remain at the event until all Flight Judging is complete.
- 5) Must provide proof of liability insurance and sign the required hold harmless agreement.
- 6) Points may be accumulated with the same Corvette or with different Corvettes.
- 7) There will be no judging of any kind. At the Chapter’s discretion, participant may receive a Sportsman ribbon and will earn points as follows: Chapter meet – 2 points; Regional meet – 3 points, National Event – 5 points.
- 8) Participant will be able to register for Sportsman and not attempt any other award at the same time. For example – no Founders check and Sportsman; no Flight Judging and Sportsman; or no Duntov Display and Sportsman, etc.

NCRS Award Program
Sportsman Award (continued)

9) Only one car may be entered per event for points award. When a member receives 20 Sportsman point within a three-year period, including Sportsman participation in at least two regionals, a plaque will be award at the Chapter level – the plaque provided by the National organization. There will be space for add-on plates that can only be earned by representation at a National Convention in any single year that the member accumulates 10 additional points (including Sportsman participation at the National Convention). This one-year period runs from the day after the previous year's National Convention through the current year's National Convention.

10) A member cannot earn a second Sportsman Plaque by repeating the process. If members of the same family are attempting the award individually, they must drive separate vehicles to earn points.

This award is just another example of the awards available to members other than Flight or Concours Judging and one the supports those who drive their Corvettes to meet.

Note: The above information is a condensed description of the NCRS Founders Award. For full details, refer to Section 12 on pages 77 of the NCRS Corvette Judging Reference Manual 9th Edition.

Installing Aluminum Kelsey-Hayes Knockoff Racing Wheels on a 1964-1967 Corvette

Installing Aluminum Kelsey-Hayes Knockoff Racing Wheels on a 1964-1967 Corvette (C2)

Daniel Rechtfertig NCRS # 60213

April 15, 2025

The 1964-1967 Chevrolet Corvette, commonly known as the C2 generation, offered an optional racing-inspired upgrade that remains one of the era's most celebrated features: the Kelsey-Hayes knockoff racing wheels. These wheels, made of aluminum and featuring a distinctive three-eared spinner, brought the aesthetic and functional advantages of race technology to the Corvette.

Installing these wheels on a C2 Corvette requires detailed knowledge of the components, attention to alignment, and understanding of the unique mechanics that prevent the wheels from coming loose at high speeds. In this report, we will cover the step-by-step installation process, emphasize the critical importance of orienting wheels and hub assemblies to the correct side of the car, and explain the consequences of improper installation.

1. Overview of Kelsey-Hayes Knockoff Wheels and Their Function

Kelsey-Hayes knockoff wheels were developed as a quick-mounting solution inspired by racing, where time was of the essence during wheel changes in pit stops. The wheels eliminated the need for traditional lug nuts and bolts by using a threaded spinner that could be quickly loosened or tightened. This spinner, when properly installed, stays tight through self-torque generated by the vehicle's forward motion. The design was intended to streamline wheel installation for racers and reduce unsprung weight by using lightweight aluminum construction.

Key Components of the Kelsey-Hayes Knockoff Wheel System

- 1) **Wheel Hub Assembly:** The hub, typically splined, provides a precise mounting surface for the wheel. Each hub is side-specific, designed for either the left (driver's) or right (passenger's) side.
- 2) **Three-Eared Spinner:** The spinner secures the wheel to the hub and requires a hammer to tighten or loosen. The spinner has specific threading—right-hand on the left side and left-hand on the right—to prevent accidental loosening.
- 3) **Left and Right Threading:** Unique to knockoff wheels, each side has opposite threads. The threading difference keeps the spinners tightened under the car's rotational forces.

In the Kelsey-Hayes system, the components must be installed on the correct side of the vehicle to prevent the wheels from loosening and detaching under motion.

Installing Aluminum Kelsey-Hayes Knockoff Racing Wheels on a 1964-1967 Corvette

2. Preparations Before Installation

Inspecting and Identifying Components

Each wheel and hub assembly will have markings to designate the side of the car they belong to:

“R” or “Right” indicates components for the passenger side, which are left-hand threaded to prevent loosening.

“L” or “Left” indicates components for the driver’s side, which use right-hand threads.

These markings may appear stamped into the metal or painted. Proper identification is critical, as reversing these parts can result in the spinner loosening while driving, leading to wheel detachment.

Tools and Supplies Needed

- Lead or Brass Hammer: Used to strike the spinner without damaging the aluminum.
- Torque Wrench: Used to secure the hub assembly bolts to the axle hub.
- Wheel Grease or Anti-Seize Compound: Helps prevent corrosion between the spinner and the wheel.

Using the correct tools and thoroughly inspecting each component will make the installation process smoother and help prevent improper assembly.

3. Step-by-Step Installation Guide

Step 1: Install the Hub Assembly

Begin by mounting the hub assembly to the car’s axle hub. This involves aligning the hub so that its splines or notches correctly fit with the axle’s mating surface. Use a torque wrench to tighten the hub’s mounting bolts to the recommended specification (typically found in the Corvette owner’s manual or a Kelsey-Hayes installation guide).

Note: Tightening the hub assembly to the proper torque is essential. Loose or unevenly torqued bolts can result in wobbling or play in the wheel.

Let's Get Technical

Installing Aluminum Kelsey-Hayes Knockoff Racing Wheels on a 1964-1967 Corvette

Step 3: Attach the Spinner

Once the wheel is flush with the hub, select the correct spinner based on the side of the car:

- Right side: Install the left-hand-threaded spinner, which tightens counterclockwise.
- Left side: Install the right-hand-threaded spinner, which tightens clockwise.

Using a lead or brass hammer, strike each ear of the spinner in sequence, ensuring that it is tightened evenly. Make multiple passes around the spinner to distribute the force evenly across all ears, avoiding a situation where one side is tighter than the other.

Step 4: Test Tightness and Security

After securing the spinner, test the wheel's stability by attempting to move it back and forth by hand. There should be zero play or looseness. Re-tighten the spinner if any movement is detected.

For further security, take the car on a short, low-speed test drive and re-inspect the wheels. It's important to confirm that the spinners remain tight and that the wheels are securely seated after initial use.

4. Importance of Proper Orientation for Safety

The unique feature of Kelsey-Hayes knockoff wheels is their self-tightening mechanism achieved through specific thread orientation. Misinstalling the wheels, hub assemblies, or spinners on the wrong side negates this self-tightening effect, as forward motion will work to loosen rather than tighten the spinners. Below, we'll discuss why this orientation is essential for preventing wheel detachment.

Understanding Thread Orientation and Rotational Forces

Each hub assembly is designed with threads that complement the rotational direction of the wheel on each side of the vehicle:

- Right-side hub assembly (passenger side) uses left-hand threads. When the wheel on this side spins forward (clockwise from the driver's perspective), the left-hand threads cause the spinner to tighten, as it rotates in a direction opposite to the thread.
- Left-side hub assembly (driver's side) uses right-hand threads. When the wheel on this side spins forward (counterclockwise from the driver's perspective), the right-hand threads also cause the spinner to tighten, as the wheel rotates in the opposite direction of the thread.

Let's Get Technical

Installing Aluminum Kelsey-Hayes Knockoff Racing Wheels on a 1964-1967 Corvette

This intentional threading configuration ensures that as the car moves forward, the force from the wheel's rotation applies consistent tightening pressure on the spinner. This self-tightening design ensures the spinner will stay secure under typical driving forces, reducing the risk of it coming loose.

If the left- and right-side hubs or spinners are accidentally swapped, the self-tightening effect is reversed. Instead of the forward motion tightening the spinner, it begins to loosen with each rotation of the wheel. This would mean that with every mile driven, the spinner could unscrew itself incrementally creating a dangerous scenario where the wheel could detach entirely while the car is in motion.

Practical and Historical Importance

This left- and right-hand thread design originated from racing, where knockoff wheels allowed for fast changes while relying on vehicle motion to keep the wheels secure. In a racing scenario, where speeds are high and forces on the wheels are intense, this self-tightening feature was invaluable. When Kelsey-Hayes adopted this feature for the Corvette, it carried over the same principle: using the car's own forward motion to maintain a tight connection between the spinner and wheel.

By aligning the correct hub assembly and spinner with each side, the car can leverage its forward motion to ensure the wheels remain tight and secure, especially at higher speeds. This orientation provides the reliability and safety needed for high-performance driving, while preserving the racing-inspired function and aesthetic that made these knockoff wheels iconic.

5. Common Installation Mistakes and Troubleshooting

Incorrect Thread Selection

One of the most common installation errors is inadvertently switching the spinners, leading to mismatched threads. Always double-check markings before threading the spinner, as incorrect threading is the most common cause of wheel detachment in knockoff wheels.

Uneven Tightening of the Spinner

Failure to evenly tighten the spinner can result in an imbalanced fit, causing wobbles and vibrations. Be sure to strike each ear of the spinner in a rotating pattern, making several rounds of evenly distributed force until the spinner is fully secure.

Installing Aluminum Kelsey-Hayes Knockoff Racing Wheels on a 1964-1967 Corvette

Improper Hub Seating

If the wheel isn't flush with the hub, it can result in play or wobble. Ensuring a snug, flush fit will prevent these issues and allow the splines to distribute the rotational force evenly.

6. Maintenance and Regular Checks for Knockoff Wheels

Due to the unique design of knockoff wheels, they require regular maintenance and inspections:

- **Spinner Tightness Check:** Periodically re-check the spinners to ensure they remain tight. Vibrations from the road or the natural expansion and contraction of metal over time can cause loosening.
- **Inspect the Splines and Threads:** Look for any wear on the splines or spinner threads, which can compromise the connection between the wheel and hub.
- **Routine Re-Tightening:** Especially after high-speed driving or aggressive cornering, it's wise to re-tighten the spinners. This step ensures that the wheels stay secure and safe for continued use.

Conclusion

The installation of Kelsey-Hayes knockoff racing wheels on a C2 Corvette is a way to enhance the car's aesthetic appeal and embrace a period-correct upgrade rooted in racing history. However, the process requires special attention to detail and an understanding of the specific mechanics behind the wheels' self-tightening function.

Installing these wheels correctly involves recognizing and adhering to the left- and right-hand threading system, which is crucial for ensuring the wheels remain tight under driving conditions. By properly orienting each hub and spinner on its correct side, the installer ensures that the natural rotational forces generated by forward motion help secure the wheels rather than loosen them. Incorrect installation can compromise both the vehicle's safety and the driver's control, making attention to detail during installation paramount.

For Corvette owners, understanding these design elements offers a deeper appreciation for the engineering thought behind this iconic wheel setup. The self-tightening design not only honors the racing heritage of the knockoff wheels but also offers a reliable, performance-oriented feature that aligns with the Corvette's legacy as an American sports car icon. Regular maintenance, careful installation, and periodic checks further enhance the longevity and safety of the Kelsey-Hayes system, allowing C2 owners to enjoy both the function and style of these distinctive wheels for years to come.

Let's Get Technical

Water Pump Gasket Replacement on C1

How to Replace a Leaking Water Pump Gasket on a C1

by Jim Cianciolo

A unique design feature on V8 powered C1 Corvettes is the front motor mount. On V8 passenger cars and trucks, the front of the engine is supported to the frame with motor mounts attached directly to the block. However on the Corvette the front motor mount is different.

There are still traditional upright mounts attached to the frame rails. But instead of bolting directly to the block, they support a crescent shaped cross mount at the very front of the engine. This cross mount is sandwiched between the block and the water pump and held in place by the water pump bolts. This design was necessary because of the shorter length of the Corvette.

The assembly consist of the engine block, two water pump gaskets, the cross motor mount, two more water pump gaskets and then the water pump, all held together by the four water pump bolts threaded into the block.

But this unique feature created a weak point. Because of engine torque, these gaskets tend to fail. Ask me how I know.

Recently when driving my 1961 Vette I began to smell that distinct odor of antifreeze. The overflow tank was low but there were no large puddles or drips when parked. I knew what that meant, water pump gaskets. I've owned this car for 35 years and I've done this repair four or five times now. I had an NOS cross mount in my parts inventory so I decided to utilize it.

Here is how I do it.

Preparation

Disconnect battery.

Support the engine. I made a wooden cradle that fits under the oil pan. Two bottle jacks support the engine weight of the oil pan to prevent denting the pan.

Let's Get Technical

Water Pump Gasket Replacement on C1

Disassembly

Drain Radiator. Remove expansion tank. Remove lower radiator hose and heater hose from water pump. Remove fan belt, cooling fan and water pump pulley. Remove the generator adjustment brace. Remove motor mount bolts from cross mount.

Lift engine several inches with the bottle jacks. This takes the weight off of the frame mounted motor mounts.

Finally, remove the four bolts that hold the water pump and the cross mount on the front of the block.

Clean the mating surfaces of the block, the cross mount and the pump.

Reassembly

Make and insert four 3/8"x 4" threaded rods into the block at the pump bolt hole locations

The threaded rods facilitate assembly of all the components

Apply gasket sealer on both sides of the all four gaskets and on each mating surface

Slide two gaskets on the threaded rods to the engine block

Slide the cross mount up against the block

Slide two more gaskets up to the cross mount

Slide the water pump up to the cross mount

Remove one threaded rod and replace with the water pump bolt

Repeat for the remaining three bolts

Lower the engine on to the motor mounts and install motor mount bolts

Reinstall pulley, fan and fan belt and generator bracket

Refill coolant

Start the engine and check for leaks. The whole process took me about 7 hours over the course of several days.

Let's Get Technical

Water Pump Gasket Replacement on C1



Support with bottle jacks



Remove old cross mount

Let's Get Technical

Water Pump Gasket Replacement on C1



Failure Point



Alignment Rods



New cross mount installed

Kansas City Chapter Judging Meet

On April 11th and 12th the Kansas City Chapter had their chapter judging meet. It was at the Cable Dahmer Auto Facility in Martin City. First let me tell you that the facility was tremendous. Plenty of room for the cars to be judged plus extra space for those who wanted to put their cars in on Saturday. The Cable Dahmer folks went all out to make us welcomed. Not only did they move vehicles to make room for us but they also cleaned the floors. They made and put out signs so everyone could find the event. They even went the extra mile to display some of their own corvettes. We truly appreciated every thing they did for us and we hope we get to do it again next year.

There was a good turn out of excellent cars to be judged and judges to judge them. It was a good opportunity for those who had not judged to observer judge and for those of us who do not judge often to get and opportunity to do so. Several folks from other chapters came.

Bob Henn did the judging school presentation on Concours judging. He did a excellent job and I heard several people compliment the presentation.

Friday nights gathering at Jesse and Jim's was a big success. Great food and lots of friends to visit with. Overall it was a great success.

Cindy

Kansas City Chapter Judging Meet



Kansas City Chapter Judging Meet



Kansas City Judging Meet



South Carolina Regional



Looks like a great place to have a judging meet

South Carolina Judging Meet



Jon hard a work on a nice car

Heartland Chapter Judging Meet



I got to judge exterior on this one

Heartland Chapter Judging Meet



Nice Concours Car

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